

REMARKS

The Official Action rejects Claims 1-6, 8-11, 12, 14-18, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,359,003 to Knighton et al. (hereinafter “Knighton”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,636,259 to Anderson et al. (hereinafter “Anderson”) and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,384,863 to Bronson (hereinafter “Bronson”). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knighton in view of Anderson in view of Bronson and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,719,799 to Isahi (hereinafter “Isahi”). Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knighton in view of Anderson in view of Bronson and in further view of another embodiment of Knighton. As described in detail below, independent Claim 1 has been amended to further patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the cited references, taken either individually or in any proper combination. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the present application and allowance of the amended set of claims is respectfully requested.

Embodiments of the present invention generally relate to a mobile communication station including a camera and a body that comprises two portions that may be mechanically coupled to one another by a linkage that permits rotation of one of the portions relative to the other. One portion includes a grip for being gripped by a user during use of the communication station. The grip may have a first compact configuration and a second configuration in which the grip is expanded relative to the first configuration. When the grip is in the second, expanded configuration, the grip improves the user’s grasp on the mobile communication station.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to remove the feature of “communicating with other devices.” Claim 11 has been amended to recite that “when [[in]] moving from the first compact configuration to the second expanded configuration the at least one outer ~~of each~~ wall is moved linearly away from the core portion[.]” Support for this amendment may be found at least in FIG 2C and 2D which discloses arrows that indicate the linear movement of the grip relative to the core portion. Claims 25-27 have been added and recite elements similar to claims 1, 11, and 24. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The first embodiment of Knighton, reproduced below and further illustrated in FIGS. 1-9, discloses a camera which includes three main sub-assemblies: a grip 102, a display assembly 104, and an optic sub-assembly including a lens 106. As illustrated in Fig. 6a to 6d, the camera may be manipulated by a user into a variety of physical configurations. Fig. 6a illustrates a compact configuration where actuation of a release 110 causes the display assembly 104 to transition away from the grip 102 (Fig 6b). The display 104 is then rotatable relative to the grip 102 and to the optic assembly (Fig 6c). The grip 102 is also movable relative to the optic assembly and the display assembly 104 as it may be tilted backwards and forwards (Fig. 6d).

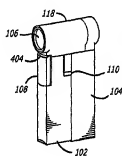


FIG. 6A

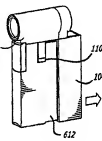


FIG. 6B

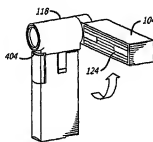


FIG. 6C

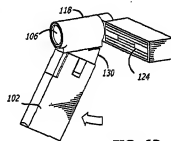


FIG. 6D

The second embodiment of Knighton illustrated in Figs 10 and 11 disclose a digital camera with a binocular display that resides within a compact housing 1002. The housing 1002 defines a pair of lobe hand grips 1028 that may be coated with an elastomeric material to provide improved grip for the user. A visor 1010 is coupled to the housing 1020 to rest on a user's forehead when the device is held by a user. The visor 1010 may be hinged to the housing 1002 and may pivot between an open position and a closed position.

Anderson is directed to network communication of hand-held electronic devices. The portion of Anderson cited by the Office Action relates to a digital camera that may be configured to communicate wirelessly through a wired or wireless connection with a cell phone or the digital camera may be provided with built in cell phone-like wireless communication (see Col. 4, lines 47-54).

Bronson discloses a digital camera that includes two sections: a hand grip 100 and a lens assembly 200. The hand grip 100 is connected to the lens assembly 200 by a telescoping and

rotating device 160. As illustrated in Figs. 1A and 1B (reproduced below), the hand grip 100 and the lens assembly 200 may be moved from the arrangement illustrated in Fig. 1A to the extended arrangement illustrated in Fig. 1B. When taking a picture, a user may raise the lens assembly 200 to eye level while at the same time keeping the hand that is holding the hand grip 100 at elbow level.

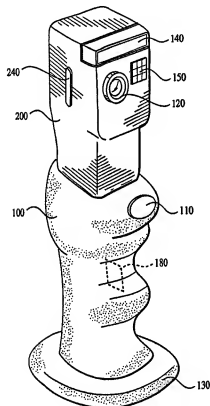


FIG. 1A

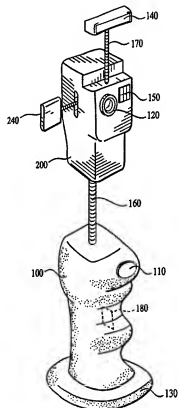


FIG. 1B

Independent Claim 1 recites a camera having a body, the body comprising two portions wherein "one of said portions having a trip for being gripped by a user during use of the communication station, the grip having a first compact configuration and a second configuration in which the grip is expanded relative to the first configuration to improve the grip of the user on the communication station when the grip is in the second expanded configuration."

Knighton merely discloses a grip 102 that is pivotally connected to a breech 130 (see, for example, FIGS. 7 and 8A) and the grip 102 may be manually tilted forward to close the gap 404 and open the breech 130 to provide access to a pointer button 208. See col. 3, lines 56-65.

The Office Action alleges on page 4 that the grip 202 and the breech 130 are analogous to the “grip” recited in claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees and asserts that the breech 130 is not configured to, nor is it used to be gripped by a user during use of the communication station. Conversely, the breech 130 includes a pointer button 208 that may be pressed by a user. It is evident that the breech is not a portion of a “grip” as it is not configured to be gripped as grasping the breech 130 would preclude a user from depressing the pointer button 208.

Consequently, the grip 102 of Knighton does not have a second expanded configuration. The grip 102 of Knighton may merely be angled forward in the deployed orientation to accommodate a different wrist angle of a user (as noted in col. 2, lines 25-28). The grip 102 is not expanded, but only rotated.

As Knighton does not disclose the aforementioned feature of Claim 1 as alleged by the Office Action, it would not be obvious, or even possible, for a person skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Knighton, Anderson, and Bronson and arrive at a mobile communication station that falls within the scope of Claim 1. Therefore independent Claim 1 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references taken alone or in combination and is patentably distinct over the cited references.

Independent Claim 25, which recites elements similar to those recited in independent Claim 1, is similarly patentably distinct over the cited references.

As indicated above, the present application is patentable over Knighton and the combination with Anderson and Bronson does not correct the deficiencies noted above; therefore, independent Claims 1 and 25 and the claims that depend therefrom are patentable over Knighton, Bronson, and Anderson.

While dependent Claims 11 and 26 are patentable for at least the same reasons as independent Claims 1 and 25 from which they depend, Applicant asserts that amended Claim 11 and new claim 26 are further patentably distinct from the cited references for additional reasons. In particular, none of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest

“wherein the grip has a core portion and at least one outer wall movable away from the core portion, and wherein when ~~[[in]]~~ moving from the first compact configuration to the second expanded configuration the at least one outer ~~or each~~ wall is moved linearly away from the core portion.” Emphasis added. Knighton, for example, merely discloses that the grip 102 may be moved in a circular path (i.e., a non-linear path). Consequently, Claims 11 and 26 are further patentably distinct from the cited references.

New Claim 27 is patentable for at least the same reasons as independent Claim 25 and dependent Claim 26 from which it depends; however, Applicant asserts that Claim 27 is further patentably distinct from the cited references for additional reasons. None of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest “wherein the at least one wall is movable away from the core portion in a direction substantially perpendicular to the first axis.” Knighton, for example, merely discloses that the grip 102 may be moved in a non linear circular path as noted above. Consequently, Claim 27 is further patentably distinct from the cited references.

None of the cited prior art teaches or suggests a mobile communication station having a body that comprises two portions and that one of the portions has an expandable grip. The cited art teaches generally that the grip of a user may be improved by providing a movable grip or a grip that includes a material such as an elastomer (as disclosed in Knighton). There is no teaching or suggestion in any of the cited prior art that would motivate a person of ordinary skill in the art to adapt a communication station to include the features of independent Claims 1 or 25.

Further, since none of the cited art disclose providing an expandable grip, it would not be obvious or possible for a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of these documents and arrive at a device that includes the features of Claims 1 or 25. Consequently, independent Claims 1 and 25 are not obvious in view of any of the cited art documents when considered alone or in combination.

Appl. No.: 10/584,748
Amdt. dated October 25, 2010
Reply to Office Action of: July 20, 2010

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims of the present application are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned agent to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

The patentability of the independent claims has been argued as set forth above and thus Applicant will not take this opportunity to argue the merits of the rejection with regard to specific dependent claims. However, Applicant does not concede that the dependent claims are not independently patentable and reserves the right to argue the patentability of dependent claims at a later date if necessary.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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